LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented)   A computer implemented method:

estimating an expected component surplus by

identifying a plurality of components required to produce a product;

defining a vector of connect rates for the components;

defining an uncancelable level for each of the components, each of the

uncancelable levels defining a quantity of the each of the components

below which the quantity of the each of the components cannot be

liquidated without incurring a charge;

assuming that a selected one of the components is available at least at an

uncancelable level of the uncancelable levels corresponding to the selected

one of the components; and

computing the expected component surplus for the selected component using a

mean production for the product, the uncancelable level and the vector of

connect rates, wherein

the computing is performed by a computer.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The computer implemented method of claim 1, the

estimating further comprising:

defining a planned level for the each of the components, each of the planned levels

defining a quantity at which a corresponding one of the components is expected to

be available.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The computer implemented method of claim 2, the

estimating further comprising:

assuming that each of the remaining ones of the components is available at the planned

level corresponding to the each of the remaining ones of the components, wherein

the remaining ones of the components are ones of the components other than the

selected one of the components.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The computer implemented method of claim 3, the estimating further comprising:

using the planned levels in the computing the expected component surplus.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The computer implemented method of claim 4, the estimating further comprising:

estimating the mean production for the product.

6 - 15. (Cancelled)

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